

SEED Academy, Spring 2011
Synthetic Biology Module

Homework #1
Due February 12, 2011

- 1) Go to the 2010 course website (<http://openwetware.org/wiki/SEED/2010>) and find the link to the Synthetic Biology Comic by Drew Endy.** Read the comic.
- 2) From the course website, click on the link to the iGEM competition. What is iGEM? Browse the site and list 3 universities that participated in 2010 and the titles of their projects.
- 3) Go to the iGEM 2010 website, select a project that is interesting to you from the descriptions (“Meet the Teams”). Watch the video of the group presentation (“Results”) and read the team’s description of the project on the wiki (A wiki is a type of website that is open can be modified by different users. Most of the websites used for this course are wiki format). Prepare a brief summary (3-4 sentences) of the project.
- 4) Now that you have an introduction to Synthetic Biology, prepare a list of 3-5 specific tasks that you would like to engineer biology to perform. You don’t have to know anything about how to do it, or even if it would be possible. Be creative and try to come up with a really diverse list of different applications!
- 5) Complete the calculations and exercises in the training lab handout. You need only do those exercises on the first five pages.

**The 2011 version of the website will be available very shortly!